

A Wayne Scott • *LifeHouse* Production



ESTHER!

An Original Musical Comedy
With Music and Lyrics by
WAYNE R. SCOTT

Based on the Book of Esther

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

Storyteller

Mordecai

Esther

Xerxes

Haman

To Be Played by Ensemble:

Young Esther

Jet Set (4 men and 4 women)

Vashti's Attendant

Vashti

Pageant Women (1-8)

Teresh's Guards (2)

Teresh

Tango Men (4)

Haman's Henchmen (8-12)

Crier

Zeresh

Various Persians

Various Hebrews

"Esther!"
SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

ACT I

Overture

1. "Esther!"Storyteller, Mordecai, Esther, Subjects
2. "Esther Chapter One, Verse Three!"Storyteller
3. "We Are the Jet Set"Storyteller, Subjects
4. "Hail, Hail, Our Noble King!"Subjects, Xerxes, Haman, Attendant
5. "Xerxes' Idea"Xerxes, Storyteller
6. "Queen Vashti's Had It"Vashti, Xerxes, Storyteller, Subjects
7. "Haman's Advice"Haman, Xerxes, Subjects
8. "Just Imagine Life in the Palace"Women of the Realm, Haman, Xerxes
9. "Can It Really Be?"Esther, Mordecai
10. "My Everlasting Promise"Esther, Xerxes, Storyteller
11. "Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!"Zeresh, Guards, Haman & Company
12. "The Explanation"Storyteller
13. "Oh, What Bliss"Haman
14. "The Haman-Mordecai Tango"Haman, Mordecai, & Companions
15. "Mordecai's Prayer"Mordecai, Esther, Storyteller, Subjects

ACT II

Entr'acte

16. "Haman's Welcome"Haman, Company & Storyteller
17. "For Such a Time as This"Mordecai, Esther
18. "Please Sir, Kind Sir"Esther, Xerxes
19. "The Triple Banquet Chorus"Xerxes, Esther, Haman, Storyteller
20. "Haman and Me"Zeresh, Storyteller, Haman
21. "A Legend in My Time"Haman, Zeresh
22. "Tossing and Turning"Storyteller, Xerxes, Attendant
23. "It's the Least That King Xerxes Can Do"Xerxes, Haman
24. "Haman is the Culprit!"Esther, Xerxes, Storyteller, Subjects

FINALE

- "Praise Anthem"Ensemble

"Esther!"

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ACT I

(1) SONG: "ESTHER!"

Storyteller

Esther— Esther— Hebrew girl of righteous sovereignty,
Esther— Esther— Triumphs over all adversity;
The Lord has chosen well
This girl of the tale we tell
Once long ago during exile times
There lived a righteous man known as Mordecai,
He was the cousin of an orphaned girl,
And she would be used to help change the world;
She is Esther— Esther—
Orphan of the tribe of Benjamin
Esther— Esther—

Mordecai

Cousin Mordecai was her only kin;
So I took her into my home—
And I raised her up as my own;
Back when Nebuchadnezzar was king,
We were the victims of his mighty sting.
We were captives in a foreign land
Jewish exiles in a strangers' hands
And so Esther— Esther—
Lived for awhile under Babylon,
And then Esther— Esther—
Moved to the East when the king was gone:
For a new king conquered the land
We were now in the Persian's hands.
Even then she was beautiful, a bright young girl
When her folks died, she was left alone
So with pride and with pleasure I brought Esther home
And here she was free to roam
But I never could have known
She would one day rise to the throne.

Storyteller

Although they were Jews in a foreign land
She was happily raised by this wise old man
And though quite impoverished, uncommonly poor
He taught young Esther the love of the Lord
And Esther— Esther—

Mordecai

Stayed at the side of old Mordecai
Because Esther— Esther—
Was the lovely apple of my eye—

Storyteller

(Esther! Esther! — Joy and pride of Mordecai!)

Esther

And I grew and I flourished under Mordecai
And he taught me that the Lord is my supply

Storyteller

And to any passerby,
She was pleasing to the eye—
And grew better and more beautiful with time.

Mordecai

And since we were Jews in a Persian land
I thought it best not to tip our hand

Storyteller
Storyteller/ Mordecai
Mordecai
Storyteller

Jews were the objects of scorn and strife
 And I wanted her to live a happy life
 And so— Esther— Esther—
 Kept our Judaism under wraps,
 Oh yes— Esther— Esther—
 And I thought it best to be the diplomats;
 Forgive us our little game,
 But I suspect you would do the same.
 And so Esther— Esther—
 Stayed at the side of old Mordecai
 Because Esther— Esther—
 Was the lovely apple of my eye—— !
 (Esther! Esther! Lovely apple of his eye!)

(2) SONG: “ESTHER CHAPTER ONE, VERSE THREE”

Storyteller

And so Esther soon became as lovely as a princess
 She was beautiful and it was the consensus
 No one in the land could match her beauty or devotion to the Lord—
 Meanwhile, in Esther chapter one, verse three, there was a party;
 Scholars would agree the gaiety was hearty;
 No expense was spared; the King was known for food that he could well afford
 And King Xerxes’ sprawling empire stretched for miles to India—
 His Persian provinces spread south to Ethiopia.
 So when King Xerxes throws a party, everyone’s excited—
 Aristocrats throughout the land are all invited
 Anyone who’s anyone is sure to come and hob-knob at the feast;
 Meanwhile Mordecai remained in prayer for his condition,
 Despite their poverty, the Lord has made provision
 He and Esther praised the Lord for helping make the harvest yield increase—
 And Esther gave him peace.

(3) SONG: “WE ARE THE JET SET”

Jet Set
Xerxes
Subjects

We are the jet set; an octet of well-met,
 We are the class of nobility
 We’re the elite, the well-heeled, and discreet,
 In short, we’re the best of any aristocracy
 Sobriety— Propriety—
 How inviting— Most exciting—
 To be high society.
 Xerxes the king is now reigning in Persia
 Stationed in Susa, the capital:
 I love to eat— good food is hard to beat
 And so, we’re invited to his latest festival.
 Sobriety— Propriety—
 How inviting— Most exciting—
 To be high society.
 (Interlude)

Storyteller
Xerxes

What a grand sensation of complete elation
 To be with his majesty.
 For one and all, these were good times at the ball;
 Food, drinks, and fun throughout Esther chapter one—
 Eat, drink, and dine—

Storyteller
Xerxes

There's no shortage of the wine!
And for seven days they wined and dined—
When I make a decree,
My subjects must agree;
And in this case we will gladly toe the line!
Eat, drink and dine— Don't forget the wine is fine!
Dear gracious host, we offer you a toast:
Hail King Xerxes— !

Subjects
Xerxes
Subjects

(4) SONG: "HAIL, HAIL OUR NOBLE KING"

Subjects

Hail, hail our noble King!
Great ruler of the East—
Hail, hail his praises sing—
The founder of our feast!
Hail! Hail! This gracious man!
The greatest in our land!
Xerxes is a king first-rate—
The finest king of all potentates
And we are here to praise
(We are here to praise)
And raise a glass to a head of state first-class!
(*Brief interlude*)

(3A)

Subjects

We must confess we've indulged to excess,
Yes, we have abandoned our dignity— (*hiccup*)
Too much to drink has pushed us to the brink
And we have ourselves to blame for impropriety!
We're overweight— inebriated— (*hiccup*)
It's time to owe up— We've like to throw up—
We're reprobates!

(5) SONG: "XERXES IDEA"

Xerxes

Let— us— not be so morose and unexciting
I know just the thing to liven up the scene
I shall call upon my queen to come brighten our routine—
You should see how she can dance to tambourines—
(She's keen!)
She will add a little spice to our cuisine!

(*Spoken*) Well— go get her. Tell Queen Vashti we want some royal entertainment!
(*Brief interlude, ending on a startled note*)

Guard

Well?!
She's not coming!

(6) SONG: "QUEEN VASHTI'S HAD IT"

Xerxes

She really burns me up, gee whiz!
Who does Vashti think she is?

I'm the alka in the seltzer
 And the Queen is merely fizz—
 I demand Queen Vashti's presence here—
 I want to see her now—
 'Cause if I don't, then she will go "Ka-pow!"
(Xerxes is surprised from behind by Queen Vashti)
 Oh! Hello, dear. Heh, heh.

Vashti
 I have had it as your wife
 I am sick of party life
 I am sick of all this revelry
 I'm sick of all this strife—
 And your rudeness is so ample, I could cut it with a knife;
 I refuse to be your glamour girl, I'm not Vanna White!

Subjects
 She has had it as your wife
 She is sick of party life
 She is sick of all this revelry
 She's sick of all this strife—

Vashti
 And your rudeness is so ample, I could cut it with a knife;
 I refuse to be your glamour girl, I'm not Vanna White!

Xerxes *(Spoken)* You can say that again!
(Vashti cracks scepter over Xerxes' head)

Vashti
 I don't like this not one bit
 You're behaving like a twit—
 Listen, buster, you had better get your act together quick!
 I won't tolerate your drunken ways,
 I'm not some floozy frump—
(Xerxes closes his eyes to kiss Vashti)
 And here's a little something for your rump!
(Vashti kicks Xerxes accordingly)

Subjects
 She has had it as your wife
 She is sick of party life
 She is sick of all this revelry
 She's sick of all this strife—

Vashti
 And so don't expect that I will ever come back to this ball,
 Not so long as you insist that you must drink alcohol.

Xerxes
 Come back, Vashti, please don't leave me,
 Don't be throwing in the towel—

Vashti
 I would rather pass the time of day with Simon Cowell! *(Vashti exits)*

Subjects
 Women are fickle, oh what a pickle!
 How will he handle national scandal?
 Oh, what a scene! Good bye to the Queen! She's gone!
 Let her proclamation ring—
 Vashti's had it with the King
 She is sick of royal party life
 The King can't do a thing—

Storyteller
 And so Vashti's gone, she won't be back,
 She's had it and she's through

Subjects
 Even though you are the King.

Storyteller
 We'd hate to be in your shoes

All
 And so Vashti's gone, she won't be back,
 She's had it and she's through—
 Even though you are the King,
 We'd hate to be—in—your—shoes—— !
 (Women are fickle, oh what a pickle!)
 How will he handle national scandal?

Haman Sign the dotted line, this is your final say—
 Officially, your edict sends Queen Vashti away—
Men Men deserve respect and we won't take any guff,
 We tried to be polite, but now it's time to get tough—
 The King has banished Vashti and enough is enough!
 Time to be ecstatic!
Women We have really had it!
Men/Haman Time to call Queen Vashti's bluff—
 Time to call Queen Vashti's bluff!

(3B)

Storyteller Xerxes the King has now issued his edict—
 Men have the final authority
Men Ha!
Xerxes But now I'm alone— The Queen has left her throne—
Storyteller Queen Vashti's departure has now left a vacancy
Xerxes Anxiety— what misery—
 How depressing— Convalescing—
 All alone— oh, woe is me!

(5B)

Haman Good King Xerxes, don't forget there is an answer—
Xerxes Oh, where would I be without you, my dear friend?

Haman *(Spoken)* I don't know.

Haman *(Sung)* May I kindly suggest, then, you need to invest in
 A search for someone you can call your own—

Xerxes *(Spoken)* A beauty pageant for the royal throne.
 So be it!

(4A)

Haman Hear ye! One and all! Hear ye all my call!
 King Xerxes has a plan for ladies in the land!
 Come forth and gather here— the big news of the year!
 We're looking for the woman that
 Will make his heart go pitter-pat!
 A royal search is under way
Women For the special one that makes Xerxes' day—
 And once this woman's seen she will become the Queen— !
 (Thoroughly clever royal endeavors
 And so exciting, my how inviting—
 No time to rest, we've got to get dressed—
 Goodbye!)

(8) SONG: "JUST IMAGINE LIFE IN THE PALACE"

Women Applying Makeup It comes once, just once in a lifetime
 What a stunning offer is this!
 Can you picture lounging in Xerxes' arms?
 The thought is heavenly bliss!
 Just imagine ruling the realm as Queen of Persia in your new home—
 Just imagine life in the palace, just imagine life on the throne!
 I have got to get all the make-up
 On my face in just the right way

Individual Women

(1) I have got to get all my curls to hold
So pass me down the hairspray—
(2) Just imagine wearing a golden crown, and wearing royal cologne—
(3) Just imagine life in the palace, just imagine life on the throne!

Female Individuals

(4) What a marvelous offer— a fabulous thought! *(Pause)*

(5) What chance do you think you have got? Ha!

Women

(6) Get out of my way— Hey, I don't have all day!

Female Individuals

We've got to give this contest our very best shot!

(7) Quit hogging the make-up— that's my powder puff!

(8) Give me back my lipstick— it is mine!

(7) Tough!

(8) Oh yeah? Here's some powder to whiten your face!

Take this! Take that! You're quite a disgrace!

(Spoken) Polar bear, that is— ha!

(Haman enters)

Women

It— comes— once, just once in a lifetime

What a stunning offer is this—

And I hope that I am the one he picks—

The thought is heavenly bliss!

Haman

If you're finished making a spectacle,

The King desires to start—

Women

Just imagine life with King Xerxes— *(sigh)*

Just imagine winning his heart!

(4B)

Haman

Hear ye! The King is here! Our noble King is here!

Gather, one and all for the pageant of the year!

Hear ye! The time has come— the time has come for one

The special one that we shall glean from all those gathered to be our

Queen—

And when this woman's found, the town will hail the Queen— !

(8A)

Xerxes

Well, don't just stand there, please fall into line—

The King is ready for your judgment time—

It's hard to deduce just who I should choose—

Haman

Haman, won't you help me decide?

From— the— looks of everyone present,

I would say that you have been had!

I have never seen such a motley crew

Of women looking this bad!

That one's fat and that one is ugly—

That one has two elephant ears—

That one's old and covered with warts,

And that one's much too big in the rear!

That one has the face of a clown

And that one's got unusual feet—

You are all dismissed for the moment,

It's too bad that we had to meet!

Xerxes

Well, confound it, Haman— that does it!

I shall have no more of this scene—

It appears that this is not working—

I shall never— have a new— queen.

(2A)

Storyteller

Now King Xerxes was dismayed, he had no plan of action
And without a Queen, the land could split in factions—
So he sat discouraged and depressed because he could not find a
Queen—
Meanwhile, Mordecai had heard King Xerxes' proclamation
Brought young Esther for the King's consideration— Xerxes' heart was
stirred, she was the most impressive woman he had
seen...
Attractive and serene.
Love at first sight happens, and in Esther, chapter two,
We read the couple fell in love and so what is a King to do?
He saw a Queen there— wouldn't you?

(9) SONG: "CAN IT REALLY BE?"

**Esther
Mordecai**

Cousin Mordecai— I have never seen a King before
That's all right, my dear— Let us see what our Lord has in store.
When our Father is near, there's no need to fear—
It is plain to see that He's brought us here—
Let us see what our Lord has in store—
Can it really be? Is this really what may be in store?

Esther

(10A) SONG: "MY EVERLASTING PROMISE"

Xerxes

I thought I'd seen most everything— I thought I'd seen it all
And just when I've seen everything,
I stand here quite enthralled—
No complaints, I love this waltz;
But my heart's in somersaults—
My everlasting promise is everlasting love—
I pledge to you my love is true
My heart is soaring above—
My everlasting promise— is everlasting love—

Xerxes/ Esther

(9B)

**Esther
Mordecai
Xerxes**

Can it really be? Can it really be love at first sight?
When it's of the Lord, there can be no question that it's right.
It's true love that I've seen— I declare you my Queen—
And from this moment on you shall rule with me—
And so Esther became King Xerxes' Queen— !

Storyteller

(4C)

Subjects

Hail! Hail! Our brand new Queen! King Xerxes has a Queen!
Hail, Esther, noble Queen! The fairest we have seen!
Love live the King and Queen! Long live the Persian realm!
We hail our King! We hail our Queen!
The finest pair that the land has seen— !
And now we raise our glass to toast our
first-class Queen.

(2B)

Storyteller

Now, King Xerxes' love for Esther grew beyond all measure

Subjects
Storyteller

Fairest of the land, she was his royal treasure
No one gave him more in pleasure— Esther was
true love personified—
And so to show his lovely Queen how true was his devotion,
Xerxes held a banquet, put his love in motion—
Everyone from prince to servant came to pay their tribute and say:
“Hi!”
There were “oohs” and “ahs” among the royal folks who were on hand.

Subjects
Storyteller

(Pause)
Oooooohh!... Aaahh!
And King Xerxes loved his Esther more than any woman in the land.
The royal banquet was a smash— the party of the season
Everyone was pleased and Esther was the reason;
Who could guess how far a little Jewish girl had climbed to be the
Queen—
But no one cared from where this Esther has arisen—
Yet she had arrived— miraculous provision
Mordecai himself agrees and proudly gazes on the festive scene—
And the King appointed Mordecai the chief of sentries,
Mordecai would therefore guard the Persians entries
He was standing guard and made the rounds throughout King Xerxes’
domicile—
Meanwhile just beyond the fancy banquet Mordecai awaits—
But he’s about to witness something strange at Xerxes’ gate...
It is a lot to contemplate

(11) SONG: “KABISH, KABOSH, KABOOM!”

Two Guards

Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!

Teresh

Fellow guards, my dearest friends,
Gather round and please comprehend—
Xerxes thinks that his reign can’t end— ha!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
King Xerxes’ reign may be in doubt—
And since we know all the ins and outs

Two Guards
Teresh

Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
With the help of the likes of you,
We could pull off a palace coup;
Think of all the revenue—
Just for me and you! Oooh!
So tonight, when they’re asleep,
We’ll sneak right in and go creepy creep—
We’ll slice and dice them without a peep:

Guards & Teresh

Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Mordecai heard the wicked plans
And so he took matters in his hands
He stopped the ring— informed the queen—
Then Haman had them hanged—

Teresh

Eeew!
But pretty soon, it was forgot
That Mordecai had unearthed this plot—
And no one gave it a single thought—
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!

Mordecai Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!

(12) SONG: "THE EXPLANATION"

Storyteller Mordecai was a brave man that Haman took the credit for the rescue—
Haman was jealous of old Mordecai's deeds—
Modest Mordecai declined the glory, but the story was recorded—
And all the facts preserved for posterity.
Shortly after the excitement at the palace
Xerxes came to Haman,
And he promoted him to second command—
Haman puffed and Haman gloated he was proud as punch:

Haman *(Spoken)* Hey, thanks a bunch!

Storyteller And next to King Xerxes, Haman ruled the land!

(4D)

Xerxes Hail, hail, my number two! Haman's tried and true!
Treat him as you treat me— extend him courtesy!
Haman And in all modesty, I say to you— hail me!
Perhaps just now, you'd like to bow, or you shall pay for it anyhow—
Subjects And we shall get along quite nicely that— I— vow! Bow!
(Listen to Haman, better obey him
Listen to Haman, better obey him—
When you're around, we'll bow to the ground,
Yessir!)

(13) SONG: "OH, WHAT BLISS"

Haman Oh, what bliss— they bow to me
I shall go down in history—
How wonderful they love me so—
Perhaps one day I'll be the King—
And keep young Esther under wing,
"King Haman" will have everything!
(Mordecai has remained standing)
Old Mordecai— has caught my eye—
He seems to miss— the point.
(To Mordecai) You there! Mordecai! Why aren't you bowing?

Mordecai *(Spoken)* I answer to a higher— authority

Haman *(Spoken)* Bow down!

(14) SONG: "THE HAMAN-MORDECAI TANGO"

Haman *(Sung)* Bow down, bow down!
Mordecai I won't! I won't!
Haman Bow down— what is wrong with you?
Mordecai I won't! I won't!
Haman Bow down! Bow down!
Mordecai I won't! For I am a Jew.

Haman What difference does that make?
For your own sake, I suggest you bow— to me, to me!

Mordecai Then, as now, I won't allow myself to bow on bended knee to thee—
(Pause)

Haman I see!

Mordecai Now to insure your health, you should explain yourself—
Then I shall swear upon your sword, I serve the Lord!
For I believe in sovereignty;
Although to you it is a mystery,
The greatest truth in all of history,
Is that my Father reigns above;
So go ahead and rule aggressively—
Conduct the government oppressively
I tell you, Haman, here and now—
Come what may I simply vow— I shall never ever bow.
Ha! Ha! A laugh! What balderdash!
We have a religious freak!
Bow down!
I won't.
Bow down!
I won't. I believe in that which I speak—
And we'll stand by wise Mordecai, for we are also Jews—
Come what may, we'll stand all day, our faith is strong and true.
Consider carefully— what you have said to me—
And we shall swear upon your sword we love the Lord!
For we believe in sovereignty—
(sovereignty)
Although to you it is a mystery—
(mystery)
The greatest truth in all of history—
(history)
Is that our Father reigns above—
(Our gracious Father reigns above!)—
So go ahead and rule aggressively—
(aggressively)
Conduct the government oppressively—
(oppressively)
We tell you, Haman, here and now—
Come what may, we simply vow—
We shall never, ever bow—

Haman
Just a friendly tyranny—
Your bold resistance is a mystery—
I simply want a place in history—
The only truth is here below—
I only want to rule aggressively—
The critics say I rule oppressively—

Mordecai
I believe sovereignty—
Although to you it is a mystery—
The greatest truth in all of history—
Is that my Father reigns above
So go ahead and rule aggressively—
Conduct the government oppressively—

Men
(sovereignty)
(mystery)
(history)
(Our gracious
Father reigns above)
(aggressively)
(oppressively)

I can tell you people here and now
Come what may I simply vow
I demand you all to bow!

We tell you, Haman, Here and now—
Come what may we simply vow—
We shall never, ever bow— !

Haman
Men
Haman
Men

Bow down and obey
We shall never bow today
I shall see you pay
You will never have your way

Men Come whatever may
Haman I shall see that you will pay
Men We shall serve the Lord today—
Haman Bow down!
Men We won't!
Haman Bow down!
Men We won't!
Haman Bow down!
Men We won't!
Haman Bow down!
Men We won't!
Haman Bow down!
Men No, we won't!

(11A)

Haman We shall see what we shall see—
 But I shall make you a guarantee:
 No one fools with the likes of me—
 Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom—
 My dearest King, noble King—
 An awful matter to you I bring—
 Some wicked people deserve your sting—
 They need to die because
 They disobey your laws
 They are dispersed throughout the land,
 They disobey what the King commands;
 Let's reprimand this rebel band—
 Let's keep the upper hand—
Xerxes Grand!
Haman I propose that we dispose
 Of all of those who would dare oppose—
 So decree, leave the rest to me—
 Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
 Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Xerxes Sounds good to me— here's my decree—
 Persia needs to have unity—
Haman I trust in you,
 I'm glad you do—
 I'll rid you of this mob—
 I'll do a thorough job,
 And so the King gave his signet ring—
Storyteller Haman was free to do anything;
 King Xerxes' faith had been misplaced
 The Jews would be erased
Haman Yea!
Men/Haman So we'll subdue every Jew—
 Pursue them through every avenue—
 For we construe this Jew taboo:
 Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
 Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
 When shall we do it?
 When shall we do it?
Haman By lot! The thirteenth of Adar!
Men/Haman Then we shall do it? (*Haman casts lots*)
 Then we shall do it?
 Then we shall do it?
 The thirteenth of Adar!

(Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!
Kabish, Kabosh, Kaboom!)

(4E)

Crier

(Dirge)

Here ye, one and all— Hear what now befalls;
All who are known as Jews must hear this judgment call—
All Jews shall be taboo, the thirteenth of Adar—
The King’s envoy will be deployed—
And every Jew on that day destroyed,
For Haman has proclaimed this in King Xerxes’ name.

(13A)

Haman

Oh what bliss... They all fear me!
I shall go down in history
How wonderful to have control—
Perhaps one day I’ll be the King—
And keep young Esther under wing—

(15) SONG: “MORDECAI’S PRAYER”

Mordecai

King Haman will have everything *(Haman exits)*
(Mordecai consoles mournful, crying throng)
Father, we’re filled with dread,
Storm clouds of black are overhead;
Each of us are as good as dead
Oh Lord, we face tyranny—
Where can You be?
Oh, Lord, please answer me and answer my plaintive plea—
Oh, Father, I call on You
To help us and see us through;
Your love and Your care is true,
We trust you know what to do.
So Father, we call on You today.
I hear my Father whispering:
“Peace, be still, my son”
So I will trust implicitly,
The victory will be won.
Father, though we despair,
We trust that You have heard our prayer—
You’ve always shown Your love and care,
We know we can trust in Thee—
You hold the key—
We make our plea on bended knee for Your sovereignty—
Father, we call on You
To help us and see us through:
Your love and Your care are true,
We trust You know what to do,
So Father, we call on You today.

All

Storyteller

Soon Esther heard the tragic word—
And she read the law;
The tears flowed freely down her cheeks,
Obscuring what she saw—
I mourn for Israel, but our Lord will not compel

Esther

All

His people to face the sword
By faith we will trust the Lord
So Father, we trust in You— today—

End of Act I

ACT II

Entr'acte

(Act II Entr'acte begins with fanfare in the middle of song (5A), p. 5, leading into song (7), "Haman's Advice." The following reprise of "Haman's Advice" begins Act II)

SONG: "HAMAN'S WELCOME"

Haman *(To audience)*

Where on earth have you all been?
It's time to start the show!
And, anyway, who ever said that you could go?
We could have started sooner if you weren't so slow—
But I'm glad you came back for a great Second Act!
And you can bet the very best is yet to come
In fact, the Second Act is simply loaded with fun
The plot will really thicken and I'm sure you will see
The Second Act is riveting as any can be
And that's because you get to see a lot more of me—

(Haman is joined by selected henchmen and/ or "Thirteenth of Adar" Chorus)

All Time to get things movin'!
Life will be improvin'!

Haman Things are gonna go my way—
All Every dog will have his day!
Haman is now aimin' to be on the throne

Haman Pretty soon the throne is gonna be my own
All And all he has (I have) to do is rid the land of the Jews
Haman Then Xerxes will be— proud to elevate me!
All Once he does (I do) then Haman's (all my) power will increase
Haman And then I'll make sure Mordecai's existence will cease!
All Better be on guard as long as Haman is loose
Show him (me) your respect or find your neck in a noose
If he doesn't (I do not) like you, he (I) won't need an excuse
Haman has (I have all) the power

Haman It's my finest hour!
All Better bow to him (me) in awe—
He's (I'm) the "long arm of the law!"

Haman I have all the power I can muster
All Better bow or it's curtains for ya, buster!
Haman I am quite superior! You are quite infer-i-er-i-er-i-or!
But I'll think of you when I am at the top
No more K-Mart or eating at the I-HOP

All What a glorious day when we're bound to have our way!
Storyteller Just a minute, Haman, you have gone too far!
You have been burning bright, but you're not quite a star
Esther's still the Queen and Xerxes' on the throne
I cannot condone such an arrogant tone!

Haman Be that as it may, I've come a long, long way
The Thirteenth of Adar is gonna be a big day—

All (Except Storyteller) He (I) deserve(s) respect and he (I) won't take any guff
We (I) tried to be polite but now it's time to get tough
The King has banished Jews and so enough is enough!
Time to be ecstatic!

Storyteller (Trying to push Haman off) I have really had it!
All Time for us (me) to show our stuff!
Time for us to show— our— stuff— !

(Storyteller pushes Haman and company off as Haman sticks out tongue at her. Storyteller may say over brief musical interlude words to the effect: "excuse me, but I have a story tell here!" Main script resumes on p. 14, beginning with musical interlude following "Mordecai's Prayer," song (15), leading into song (12A), where Storyteller sings: "Since it wasn't wise...")

(12A)

Storyteller Since it wasn't wise for cousin Mordecai and Esther to meet—
They had to be discreet, and so they communicated by telegram—
Their love and care caused them both to share
A burning desire to face the fire—
And so they considered how to get out of this jam.

(16) SONG: "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

Mordecai Oppression and ruses, hard knocks, bumps and bruises—
Yes, these are the things we endure;
With treacherous people like Haman about,
Nothing in this life is sure—
But all things have seasons, events have their reasons
And nothing has happened by chance—

Why in the world did the Lord make you Queen?
 He knows our own circumstance.
 It may be for such a time as this—
 Just such a time as this;
 So long as the Lord is behind events,
 Nothing is really amiss—
 It may be for such a time as this—
 Just such a time as this;
 So long as the Lord is controlling events,
 Nothing is really amiss.

Esther With my own eyes I see your words are wise,
 But I'm really not sure what to do;
 No one may go to the King unless called,
 I may not see him, nor you—
 Still, I can see that King Xerxes' decree
 Is most tragic and based upon lies—
 Oh, why has the Lord allowed me to be Queen?
 And what of my strong Jewish ties?

Mordecai It may be for such a time as this—
 Time to be bold, my dear;
 So long as our Father controls events,
 There is no danger to fear;

Esther/Mordecai It may be for such a time as this;
 Just such a time as this;
 So long as the Lord is controlling events,
 Nothing is really amiss, no,
 The Lord is behind even this, so,

Mordecai Here's what you do: Keep your faith and be true
 Go to the King, he will listen to you—
 It's all for just such a time as this—
 Though your life is at risk,
 The Lord is in this, so with eyes fixed on Him
 He will help us to win— He's in control of the hearts of men—
 And we're here for just such a time as this!

Mordecai "Do not imagine that you in the King's palace can escape any more than all the
 Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for
 the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And
 who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

(12B)

Storyteller Persian law declared that no one dared to see the King— including the Queen—
 Without an invitation, it was curtains for you;
 Esther's courage comes from faith and she won't wait to get a royal invitation—
 She must see the King,
 Despite the legal taboo
(Brief musical interlude creating "tentative" mood)

Esther What would you do if you were me?
 Wanting to set our people free—
 Knowing the King may sentence me—
 Trusting in our Lord's sovereignty—
 What would you do if you were me?

(9C)

Esther Can it really be? Is the truth to be conveyed by me?
 It's a frightening thing— yet the Lord would have me see the King.

When the Lord's sending you, you must strive to be true,
There really is no other course to pursue—
Now dear Lord, I am trusting in You.

("Tentative" mood music briefly resumes as Esther stands and ponders and while Storyteller reads Esther 5:1—)

Storyteller

"Now it came about... that Esther stood in the inner court of the King's palace in front of the King's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne..."

(17) SONG: "PLEASE SIR—KIND SIR"

Esther

Please sir, kind sir
May I stand before you?

Xerxes

Esther, Esther, come, I now implore you.
Why are you so fearful to come near?

Esther

Why is your heart so heavy, dear?
I was afraid our Persian laws
Would mean the end of me because
The laws are clear I can't come near
Unless my King invites me here—
The laws are clear I can't come near
Unless you bid me come.

Xerxes

Esther, Esther
How could I resist you?
Esther, Esther—
How may I assist you?
Tell me what it is you would acquire—
Tell me what is your heart's desire?

Esther

If I have found favor here—
Would you please join me, my dear?
I have prepared a table fair
I'd like both you and Haman there—

Xerxes

How debonair is this quaint affair—
I'm hungry as a bear!

(18) SONG: "THE TRIPLE BANQUET CHORUS"

Xerxes

Oh my! Aren't you sweet? What a special treat—
I'm so glad that you thought of it, dear—
So I'll take a seat and dig in to eat,
And I'll have Haman brought to us here

Storyteller

What a banquet spread, Esther used her head,
Her cuisine was spectacular art—
She found the tummy is a special
Way to reach a man's heart.

Haman

Oh, goody gum drops! Look what I'm invited to—
They think I'm special— must be pleased with all I do;
A royal banquet— must be pleased with all I do;
A royal banquet— just for the royalty—
Maybe they're planning to festively honor me!

Esther

I'm so delighted you're here— I'll pass the casserole dear—
You'll find the butter near, dear— Won't you please have some peas?
Your napkin is not quite snug— it needs to have a slight tug—
There, there, that's better Haman— do have some cheese.

Haman

I don't believe it! I think she tried to strangle me!
I really wonder— what could Esther's angle be?
This food's delicious, what could all the hoopla be?

Xerxes Hopefully Xerxes is planning to honor me.
Well, I must confess that I like excess,
And I like this banquet, my dear—
But could you please define what you had in mind
When you asked us all to be here?

Storyteller Now Esther thought she was on the spot,
Just what to say was not clear,
She felt tongue-tied and that implied
Perhaps she struggled with fear.

Haman Aha, he wonders, just the way I'm wondering—
I really wonder— wonder what she'll tell the King—
The food's delicious, what could all this hoopla be?
How are they planning to publicly honor me?

Esther I'm glad you're curious, dear— I'll tell you soon, have no fear—
Please have some caviar, dear— Here's some stew, just for you—
Here, Haman, have some hot tea— perhaps you'd like some coffee—
Here, let me help you pour it— Oh, dear, dear me—

Haman I don't believe it! I think she tried to boil me!
Well, she succeeded! The burns are nearly third degree— I really wonder—
What could Esther's angle be?

Xerxes This is a mighty strange method to honor me!
Now my Esther, dear, you've indulged us here
This is great— we're the blessed of all men—
But I'd like defined what you have in mind,
And so I shall ask you again—

Esther I'm glad you asked again, dear— I have a goal for us here:
I want to ask you both here, just for me, would you please—
Come back and have some more food?— It puts us in a good mood—
Come back tomorrow and we'll— have on more feast.

Xerxes We'd both be pleased—
Haman I am agreed...
Esther And, I'm relieved.

(2C)

Storyteller And so the banquet was concluded, Haman had eluded
Questioning by Esther— Truth had been precluded
Esther did not point the finger, she had trouble summoning the nerve;
But our Father's in control, what happened was essential,
It would lead to circumstances Providential—
Esther's second banquet next day would see her act with purpose and
with verve
Meanwhile, Haman happily runs home to gossip with his wife,
While in the palace Xerxes cannot sleep to save his life—
Haman on the one hand, Xerxes on the other—
Sovereignty compels the impact one another—
Esther, chapter five and six record just how their lives would wind
and weave
Let us watch has Haman leaves...
(Haman encounters Mordecai)

(14A)

Haman Bow down— bow down.
Mordecai I won't I won't. Just who do you think you are?
Haman The thirteenth of Adar— prepare for your destiny.
Mordecai I live by sovereignty...